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YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

 $\sqrt{0}$ n 30 and 31 July 1953, the Economic Council of the Federal Executive Council (Odbor privrede Saveznog izvršnog veća) held a meeting at which urgent economic problems were discussed, such as the marketing of agricultural products; the purchasing of wool, leather, and oil products; the reconstruction of mills; cold storage; prices; credits; and tax payments. The following report summarizes the problems discussed and the measures that have been taken to solve these problems.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources. 7

Marketing Agricultural Products

Although conditions for marketing agricultural products have been better in 1953 than in 1952, there have been cases of price inflation which have resulted in far-reaching effects on production, undesirable economic upsets, and a lowering of the standard of living.

The first question considered by the Economic Council of the Federal Executive Council was the government purchase and processing of agricultural products. It was decided that a relentless campaign is necessary to stabilize the market, and to protect producer and consumer. The Chamber of Commerce (Trgovinska komora) and subsidiary chambers will have an important part in stabilizing the market.(1)

The following Order Prohibiting the Export of Agricultural Products became effective on 12 August 1953:

The following agricultural and food products are forbidden to be exported:

 Wheat, barley, rye, oats, mixed cereals, buckwheat, millet, bran, potatoes, all types of flour, lard, butter, edible oils, suet, fresh and smoked bacon, fats, rice and sugar.

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- 2. Breeding cattle, pigs, and their young.
- Sugar beet cuttings, malt, molasses, rape cakes, maize, wheat meal, malt germ, powdered blood, bone meal, fish meal, vetch, corn husks, sunflower seeds, gourd seeds, cotton seeds, hemp seeds, and silage of all types.

Only when authorized by the Administration for Foreign Trade (Uprava za vanjsku trgovinu) may economic enterprises export beans, peas, kidney beans, soybeans, work horses, breeding horses, colts, and breeding sheep.

Corn will be exported by economic enterprises authorized by the Economic Council of the Federal Executive Council.

Paragraph 1 of this decree may be repealed only through the action of the Economic Council of the Federal Executive Council upon the proposal of the Federal Food Administration (Savezna uprava za prehranu). Paragraphs 2 and 3 may be repealed only upon a proposal of the Administration for Foreign Trade.(2)

There have been an increasing number of recent cases where enterprises have purchased wool, leather, and oil products for reselling rather than for processing. The council ruled that the purchase of wool, leather, and oil products should be permitted only to designated enterprises which fulfill the necessary conditions (1)

The following Order on Economic Administrative Measures on Trade in Agricultural Products became effective on 12 August 1952:

 Industrial plants, raw hides, and wool may be purchased directly from producers by industrial enterprises processing such products, and by commercial enterprises whose exclusive function is the purchasing of such products.

Other commercial enterprises may purchase industrial plants, raw hides, and wool directly from producers, only if authorized by the republic State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Republicki drzavni sekretarijat za poslove narodne privrede). Such authorization will be granted only to commercial enterprises which have specialized personnel, warehouses, and equipment necessary for storing, packing, and transporting such merchandise.

- 2. Commercial enterprises which have not been authorized to purchase industrial plants, raw hides, and wool directly from producers or farm work cooperatives, may purchase these products only if they are purchasing agents for enterprises authorized to purchase these products.
- 3. Economic organizations may not purchase agricultural products through $\mbox{middlemen}$.
- 4. If an economic organization is engaged in the unauthorized purchase of industrial plants, raw hides, and wool directly from producers or middlemen, the economic council of the srez or city people's council will rule that all profits resulting from such activities are forfeited.

The same penalty will be enforced in cases where economic organizations do not maintain prices set by authorized state agencies for individual products. In such cases, an organization may even be temporarily prohibited from purchasing specified agricultural products in the area concerned for up to 3 months. When such a penalty is imposed, the economic council of the srez or city people's council is obligated to inform the economic council of the srez or city people's council in the area where the headquarters of the economic organization is located. This council may temporarily prohibit the economic organization from purchasing specified agricultural products in any part of Yugoslavia.

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- 5. Within 15 days after receipt, appeals against rulings of paragraph 4 may be filed with the republic State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.
- 6. An economic organization which purchases agricultural products contrary to the provisions of this decree will also be fined up to a million dinars. The responsible official of the organization will be fined up to 10,000 dinars. If the official acted for financial gain, the official may be fined up to 200,000 dinars.(2)

Reconstruction of Mills and New Charges for Milling

Since most Yugoslav mills require reconstruction or renovation, the council ruled that the entire 1953 amortization fund is to be utilized in ensuing years for reconstruction or renovation of mills and silos. Until the present, there has been insufficient credit for this purpose.

The council ruled that an average of 280 dinars should be charged for milling 1,000 kilograms of cereals.

Cold Storage

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Every year, billions of dinars are lost in Yugoslavia because of insufficient cold storage installations for fruit, vegetables, and meats. The council decided to order that communes install the required number of cold storage units and refrigerators, particularly in large economic centers. The state will grant credit at favorable interest rates for this purpose.

The need was stressed for increased production of iceboxes and refrigerators by Yugoslav enterprises.

Prices of Electricity, Coal, and Textiles

The council issued a ruling, which will be forwarded to the Federal Executive Council and the republic executive councils, that the republics investigate the possibilities of and methods for reducing electricity rates by individual electric power systems.

The council considered the question of coal prices. Although railroad rates for the transportation of coal have been reduced, the price of coal to consumers has not been reduced. A study of the reasons why coal prices have not been reduced, and the issuance of a ruling on lower coal prices remains to be done.

The council ruled that textile prices are high, and that it is necessary to lower accumulation and social fund (AF) rates on textile products.(1)

The following Regulation on Reduced AF rates for the Textile Industry, issued on 19 August 1953, is retroactive to 1 August 1953:

1. The average AF rates called for by the social plan for the textile industry are to be decreased as follows for the following plants (in percent):

Cotton spinning and weaving mills Wool spinning and weaving mills Artificial silk mills

AF Rate Decrease

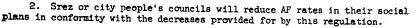
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3. By 30 August 1953, the srez or city people's councils will inform the affiliate of the People's Bank of Yugoslavia in their area that they have reduced AF rates for individual enterprises.(3)

Trial Production Credits

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The council issued an order allowing for credit at reduced interest rates to enterprises during trial production. This is the first regulation providing relief of this kind to enterprises which are just beginning to operate.(1)

The following Order on Temporary Extension of Credit to Cover Trial Production Costs became effective on 12 August 1953:

 The costs of trial production will be covered by special credits approved for that purpose by the People's Bank of Yugoslavia.

Trial production is defined as production in new enterprises or in newly built and newly equipped shops of enterprises during the period in which a new production process is being mastered, counting from the day that the enterprise or shop begins to operate until the day it goes into regular production.

- The costs of trial production are defined as costs over and above costs estimated for such production.
- 3. Enterprises are responsible for rendering a special accounting on trial production costs.

Decreases in production costs resulting from trial production will be reserved for repayment of credits extended.

The salaries of blue- and white-collar workers during trial production will be calculated on the basis of hours worked, and paid in accordance with wage regulations.

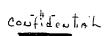
4. A trial production period may not exceed 6 months, and trial production credit must be repaid 2 years after the end of trial production, except as extensions are granted by the Economic Council of the Republic Executive Council.

An annual interest rate of 2 percent will be charged on trial production credits.

5. For trial production credit, an enterprise must submit to the economic council of the srez or city people's council concerned a description of the production operation concerned, and an estimate of the maximum length of the trial period and of the repayment period.

After the economic council of the srez or city people's council approves a credit request, and stands as guarantor for it, the enterprise obtains the credit concerned by forwarding the credit request and approval to the competent affiliate of the People's Bank of Yugoslavia.

6. If an enterprise is not satisfied with the amount of credit extended, or with any other conditions, it may appeal within 15 days to the republic State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.





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The competent affiliate of the People's Bank of Yugoslavia, the republic central bank, or the main affiliate of the autonomous province or autonomous oblast may submit its observations on such credit to the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.

Rulings of the republic Secretariat for Economic Affairs are final; in such cases, the republic is guarantor for the credit granted.(2)

Obligatory Tax Payments

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The Economic Council will propose to the Federal Executive Council a Draft Order on Obligatory Payment of Taxes on Income of Farm Producers and Artisans. The draft provides for measures to be taken and interest rates to be paid in cases where tax payments are not made on schedule. The council made an estimate of taxes to be collected in the fourth quarter of 1953.(1)

SOURCES

- 1. Belgrade, Politika, 1 Aug 53
- 2. Belgrade, Sluzbení List FNRJ, 12 Aug 53
- 3. Ibid., 19 Aug 53

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